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Special to Angela Stewart
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MAYOR SHARPE JAMES'S STATEMENT ON LESTER BORNSTEIN'S RETIREMENT

While I am saddened by the news of Lester's retirement because he has been so much a part of Beth Israel Hospital and the City of Newark for so many years, I am pleased to know that he will now be able to spend more time with his lovely family and in pursuing his many diverse outside interests, including tennis! He is such a vital, warm and caring guy, whose presence always lights up a room. And, he has been a very loyal and supportive friend to me over the years, as well as to the City of Newark.

Lester is as much an institution in the community, as the hospital he has presided over these many years. He was the driving force behind the Beth's decision to stay in Newark and continue to help its local community, while other hospitals chose to move to suburban locations and serve a more affluent clientele. He is responsible for the growth of Beth Israel from a hospital to a medical center, and it is significant to note that Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is the only hospital in Newark that carries the City's name in its title. We also have Lester to thank for the many innovative building, medical and social services programs that the Beth has implemented, which have brought the hospital and the City of Newark great recognition and respect.

Beth Israel, under Les Bornstein has been a major player in Newark's growth as a center of research and medical care. I hope it maintains the same level of commitment under Mr. Bornstein's successor.